

PIT

PITMIKE. *n. f.* [myna, Sax. *piſmiere*, Dutch.] An ant; an enmity.

His cloaths, as atoms might prevail,
Might fit a *pitmire* or a whale. *Prior.*

Prejudicial to fruit are *piſmires*, caterpillars and mice. *Mort.*

To PISS. *v. n.* [*piſſer*, Fr. *piſſen*, Dutch.] To make water.

I charge the *piſſing* conduit run nothing but claret. *Shakeſp.*

One als *piſſes*, the reſt *piſſ* for company. *L'Eſtrange.*

Once poſſeſs'd of what with care you ſave,
The wanton boys would *piſſ* upon your grave. *Dryden.*

PISS. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Urine; animal water.

My ſpleen is at the little rogues, it would vex one more to
be knock'd on the head with a *piſſ*-pot than a thunder
bolt. *Pope to Swift.*

PISSABED. *n. f.* A yellow flower growing in the graſs.

PISSBURN. *adj.* Stained with urine.

PISTA'CHIO. *n. f.* [*piſtache*, Fr. *piſtachi*, Italian; *piſtacia*,
Latin.]

The *piſtacia* is a dry fruit of an oblong figure, pointed at
both ends about half an inch in length, and a third of an inch
in thickneſs: it has a double ſhell, the exterior one mem-
branaceous and thin, and the inner hard, tough and woody:

the kernel is of a green colour and a ſoft and unctuous ſub-
ſtance, much like the pulp of an almond, of a pleaſant taſte:

piſtacias were known to the ancients, and the Arabians call
them *piſtich* and *ſeluch*, and we ſometimes *ſyſtich* nuts. *Hill.*

Piſtacias, ſo they be good, and not muſty, joined with al-
monds, are an excellent nourisher. *Bacon's Nat. Hiſt.*

PISTE. *n. f.* [French.] The track or tread a horſeman makes
upon the ground he goes over.

PISTILLATION. *n. f.* [*piſtillum*, Lat.] The act of pounding
in a mortar.

The beſt diamonds we have are comminable, and ſo far
from breaking hammers, that they ſubmit unto *piſtillation*,
and reſiſt not an ordinary peſtle. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

PISTOL. *n. f.* [*piſtole*, *piſtolet*, Fr.] A ſmall hand-gun.

Three watch the door with *piſtols*, that none ſhould iſſue
out. *Shakeſpear's Merry Wives of Windſor.*

The whole body of the horſe paſſed within *piſtol*-ſhot of
the cottage. *Clarendon, b. viii.*

Quickſilver diſcharged from a *piſtol* will hardly pierce
through a parchment. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

A woman had a tubercle in the great canthus of the eye, of
the bigneſs of a *piſtol*-bullet. *Wiſeman's Surgery.*

To PISTOL. *v. a.* [*piſteler*, Fr.] To ſhoot with a piſtol.

PISTOLE. *n. f.* [*piſtole*, Fr.] A coin of many countries and
many degrees of value.

I ſhall diſburden him of many hundred *piſtoles*, to make
him lighter for the journey. *Dryden's Spaniſh Fryar.*

PISTOLET. *n. f.* [diminutive of *piſtol*.] A little piſtol.

Thoſe unlickt bear-whelps, unlik'd *piſtolets*
That, more than cannon-shot, avails or lets. *Donne.*

PISTON. *n. f.* [*piſton*, Fr.] The movable part in ſeveral ma-
chines; as in pumps and ſyringes, whereby the ſuction or at-
traction is cauſed; an embolus.

PIT. *n. f.* [Saxon.]

1. A hole in the ground.

Get you gone,
And from the *pit* of Acheron *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*

Meet me i' th' morning.

Tumble me into ſome loathſome *pit*,
Where never man's eye may behold my body. *Shakeſp.*

Our enemies have beat us to the *pit*;
It is more worthy to leap in ourſelves,
Than tarry 'till they puſh us. *Shakeſp. Julius Cæſar.*

Pits upon the ſea-ſhore turn into freſh water, by percola-
tion of the ſalt through the ſand; but in ſome places of Africa,
the water in ſuch *pits* will become brackiſh again. *Bacon.*

2. Abyſs; profundity.

Into what *pit* thou ſeeſt
From what height fallen. *Milton.*

3. The grave.

O Lord, think no ſcorn of me, leſt I become like them
that go down into the *pit*. *Pſalm xxviii. 1.*

4. The area on which cocks fight; whence the phraſe, to fly
the *pit*.

Make him glad, at leaſt, to quit
His victory, and fly the *pit*. *Hudibras.*

They manag'd the diſpute as fiercely, as two game-cocks
in the *pit*. *Locke on Education.*

5. The middle part of the theatre.

Let Cully, Cockwood, Fopling charm the *pit*,
And in their folly ſhew the writers wit. *Dryden.*

Now luck for us, and a kind hearty *pit*;
For he who pleaſes, never fails of wit. *Dryden.*

6. [*Pis, pits*, old Fr. from *pellus*, Lat.] Any hollow of the
body: as, the *pit* of the ſtomach; the arm *pit*.

7. A dint made by the finger.

To PIT. *v. a.* To ſink in hollows.

An anafarca, a ſpecies of dropſy, is characteriſed by the
ſhining and ſoſtneſs of the ſkin, which gives way to the leaſt
impreſſion, and remains *pitted* for ſome time. *Sharp.*

PITAPAT. *n. f.* [probably from *pas a pas*, or *patte patte*, Fr.]

PIT

1. A flutter; a palpitation.

A lion meets him, and the fox's heart went *pitapat*. *L'Eſtr.*

2. A light quick ſtep.

Now I hear the *pitapat* of a pretty foot through the dark
alley: no, 'tis the ſon of a mare that's broken loole, and
munching upon the melons. *Dryden's Don Sebastian.*

PITCH. *n. f.* [pic, Sax. *pix*, Lat.] The reſin of the pine ex-
tracted by fire and inſpilled.

They that touch *pitch* will be defiled. *Proverbs.*

Of air and water mixed together, and conſumed with fire,
Is made a black colour; as in charcoal, oil, *pitch* and
links. *Peaſham on Drawing.*

A veſſel ſmeard round with *pitch*.

3. [From *piſti*, Fr. *Skinner*.] Any degree of elevation or
height.

Lovely concord and moſt ſacred peace
Doth nourish virtue, and faſt friendſhip breeds,
Weak he makes ſtrong, and ſtrong things does increaſe,
Till it the *pitch* of hiſt'ry's highſt exceeds. *Fairy Queen.*

How high a *pitch* his reſolution ſoars.

Arm thy heart, and fill thy thoughts
To mount aloft with thy imperial mitres,
And mount her *pitch*. *Shakeſpear's Titus Andronicus.*

Between two hawks, which flies the higher *pitch*,
I have, perhaps, ſome ſhallow judgment. *Shakeſp.*

Down they fell,
Driv'n headlong from the *pitch* of heav'n, down
Into this deep. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. ii.*

Cannons ſhoot the higher *pitch*.

The lower we let down their breeches,
Alciades was one of the beſt orators of his age, not-
withſtanding he lived at a time when learning was at the
highſt *pitch*. *Addiſon's Whig Examiner.*

3. Hiſt'ry riſe.

A beauty wailing, and diſtreſſed widow,
Seduc'd the *pitch* and height of all his thoughts
To baſe declenſion and loath'd bigamy. *Shakeſp.*

4. State with reſpect to lowneſs or height.

From this high *pitch* let us deſcend
A lower flight; and ſpeak of things at hand. *Milton.*

By how much from the top of wond'rous glory,
Strongeſt of mortal men,
To loweſt *pitch* of abject fortune thou art fall'n. *Milton.*

5. Size; ſtature.

That infernal monſter having caſt
His weary foe into the living well,
'Gan high advance his broad diſcoloured breaſt
Above his wonted *pitch*. *Fairy Queen.*

Were the whole frame here,
It is of ſuch a ſpacious lofty *pitch*,
Your roof were not ſufficient to contain it. *Shakeſp.*

It turn'd itſelf to Ralpho's ſhape;
So like in perſon, garb and *pitch*,
'Twas hard t' interpret which was which. *Hudibras.*

6. Degree; rate.

To overcome in battle, and ſubdue
Nations, and bring home ſpoils, with infinite
Manſlaughter, ſhall be held the highſt *pitch*
Of human glory. *Milton's Par. Loſt, b. xi.*

Our reſident Tom
From Venice is come,
And hath left the ſtateſman behind him,
Talks at the ſame *pitch*,
Is as wife, is as rich,
And juſt where you left him, you find him. *Denham.*

Princes that fear'd him, grieve; concern'd to ſee
No *pitch* of glory from the grave is free. *Wallar.*

Evangelical innocence, ſuch as the goſpel accepts, though
mugled with ſeveral infirmities and defects, yet amounts to
ſuch a *pitch* of righteouſneſs, as we call ſincerity. *South.*

When the ſun's heat is thus far advanced, 'tis but juſt
come up to the *pitch* of another ſet of vegetables, and but
great enough to excite the terreſtrial particles, which are more
ponderous. *Woodward's Natural Hiſtory.*

To PITCH. *v. a.* [*appicciare*, Italian.]

1. To fix; to plant.

On Dardan plains the Greeks do *pitch*
Their brave pavilions. *Shakeſpear's Troilus and Creſſida.*

Sharp ſtokes, pluckt out of hedges,
They *pitched* in the ground. *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*

He counſell'd him how to hunt his game,
What dart to caſt, what net, what tole to *pitch*. *Fairfax.*

David prepar'd a place for the ark of God, and *pitched* for
it a tent. *1 Chron. xv. 1.*

Mahometes *pitched* his tents in a little meadow.

When the victor
Had conquer'd Thebes, he *pitched* upon the plain
His mighty camp. *Dryden's Knight's Tale.*

To Chaffis' pleaſing plains he took his way,
There *pitch'd* his tents, and there reſolv'd to ſtay. *Dryden.*

The trenches firſt they paſs'd, then took they way
Where their proud foes in *pit* h'd pavilions lay. *Dryden.*

2. To

PIT

2. To order regularly.

In ſetting down the form of common prayer, there was
no need to mention the learning of a fit, or the unſitneſs of
an ignorant miniſter, more than that he, which deſcribeth
the manner how to *pitch* a field, ſhould ſpeak of moderation
and ſobriety in diet. *Hooker, b. v. f. 31.*

One *pitched* battle would determine the fate of the Spaniſh
continent. *Addiſon on the State of the War.*

3. To throw headlong; to caſt forward.

They'll not *pitch* me i' th' mire,
Unleſs he bid 'em. *Shakeſp. Tempeſt.*

They would wreſtle, and *pitch* the bar for a whole after-
noon. *Spectator, N^o 434.*

4. To ſmear with PITCH. [*picca*, Lat. from the noun.]

The ark *pitch* within and without. *Genſis vi. 14.*

The Trojans mount their ſhips, born on the waves,
And the *pitch'd* veſſels glide with eaſy force. *Dryden.*

Some *pitch* the ends of the timber in the walls, to preſerve
them from the mortar. *Moxon's Mechanical Exerciſe.*

I *pitched* over the convex very thinly, by dropping melted
pitch upon it, and warming it to keep the *pitch* ſoft, whilſt
I ground it with the concave copper wetted to make it ſpread
evenly all over the convex. *Newton's Opticks.*

5. To darken.

The air hath ſtar'd the roſes in her cheeks,
And *pitch'd* the lily tincture of her face. *Shakeſp.*

The welkin *pitch'd* with ſullen cloud. *Addiſon.*

6. To pave.

To PITCH. *v. n.*

1. To light; to drop.

When the ſwarm is ſettled, take a branch of the tree
whereon they *pitch*, and wipe the hive clean. *Mortimer.*

2. To fall headlong.

The courſer o'er the pommel caſt the knight;
Forward he flew, and *pitching* on his head,
He quiver'd with his ſect, and lay for dead. *Dryden.*

3. To fix choice.

We think 'tis no great matter which,
They're all alike, yet we ſhall *pitch*
On one that fits our purpoſe. *Hudibras.*

A free agent will *pitch* upon ſuch a part in his choice, with
knowledge certain. *More's Divine Dialogues.*

The ſubject I have *pitched* upon may ſeem improper. *South.*

I *pitched* upon this conſideration that parents owe their chil-
dren, not only material ſubſiſtence, but much more ſpiritual
contribution to their mind. *Digby on the Soul.*

The covetous man was a good while at a ſtand; but he
came however by degrees to *pitch* upon one thing after an-
other. *L'Eſtrange's Fables.*

Pitch upon the beſt courſe of life, and cuſtom will render
it the moſt eaſy. *Tillotſon's Sermons.*

I tranſlated Chaucer, and amongſt the reſt *pitched* on the
wiſe of Bath's tale. *Dryden's Fables.*

4. To fix a tent or temporary habitation.

They *pitched* by Emmaus in the plain. *1 Mac. iii. 40.*

PITCHER. *n. f.* [*pitcher*, French.]

1. An earthen veſſel; a water pot.

With ſuddain fear her *pitcher* down ſhe threw
And fled away. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*

Pitchers have ears, and I have many ſervants;
Beſides old Gremio is hearkening. *Shakeſp.*

Pyræus was only famous for counterfeiting all baſe things;
as earthen *pitchers* and a ſcuttery. *Peaſham on Drawing.*

Hylas may drop his *pitcher*, none will cry,
Not if he drown himſelf. *Dryden.*

2. An inſtrument to pierce the ground in which any thing is to
be fixed.

To the hills poles muſt be ſet deep in the ground, with a
ſquare iron *pitcher* or crow. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

PITCHER. *n. f.* [*pitch and fork*.] A fork with which corn
is thrown upon the waggon.

An old lord in Leiceſterſhire amuſed himſelf with mending
pitchforks and ſpades for his tenants gratis. *Swift.*

PITCHINESS. *n. f.* [from *pitchy*.] Blackneſs; darkneſs.

PITCHY. *adj.* [from *pitch*.]

1. Smeared with *pitch*.

The planks, their *pitchy* cov'rings waſh'd away,
Now yield; and now a yawning breach diſplay. *Dryden.*

2. Having the qualities of *pitch*.

Native petroleum, found floating upon ſome ſprings, is no
other than this very *pitchy* ſubſtance, drawn forth of the ſtrata
by the water. *Woodward on Fossils.*

3. Black; dark; diſmal.

Night is fled,
Whoſe *pitchy* mantle over-veil'd the earth. *Shakeſp.*

I will ſort a *pitchy* day for thee. *Shakeſp. Henry VI.*

Pitchy and dark the night ſometimes appears,
Fried to our voice, and parent of our fears;
Our joy and wonder ſometimes ſhe excites,
With ſtars unnumber'd. *Prior.*

PIT

PITCOAL. *n. f.* [*pit and coal*.] Fossil coal.

The beſt fuel is peat, the next charcoal made of *pitcoal* of
cinders. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

PIT-MAN. *n. f.* [*pit and man*.] He that in ſawing timber works
below in the pit.

With the *pitſaw* they enter the one end of the ſtuff, the
topman at the top, and the *pitman* under him: the topman
obſerving to guide the ſaw exactly, and the *pitman* drawing it
with all his ſtrength perpendicularly down. *Moxon.*

PIT-SAW. *n. f.* [*pit and ſaw*.] The large ſaw uſed by two
men, of whom one is in the pit.

The *pitſaw* is not only uſed by thoſe workmen that ſaw
timber and boards, but is alſo for ſmall matters uſed by
joiners. *Moxon's Mechanical Exerciſes.*

PITTEOUS. *adj.* [from *pity*.]

1. Sorrowful; mournful; exciting pity.

When they heard that *piteous* ſtrained voice,
In haſte forſook their rural merriment. *Fairy Queen.*

The moſt arch deed of *piteous* maſſacre,
That ever yet this land was guilty of. *Shakeſp. Rich. III.*

Which when Deucalion with a *piteous* look
Beheld, he wept. *Dryden.*

2. Compaſſionate; tender.

If the ſeries of thy joys
Permit one thought leſs cheerful to ariſe,
Piteous transfer it to the mournful ſwain. *Prior.*

She gave him, *piteous* of his caſe,
A ſluggiſh tap'try. *Pope's Dunciad.*

3. Wretched; paltry; pitiful.

Piteous amends! unleſs
Be meant our grand foe. *Milton's Par. Loſt.*

PITTEOUSLY. *adv.* [from *piteous*.] In a *piteous* manner.

I muſt talk of murders, rapes and maſ